Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1660 - June 5 2009

Ladies and gentlemen, with some thank you's to folks who kept Newsline in operation last sumer, hers our support fund administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ:

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In June we heard from the Raleigh, NC Amateur Radio Society; The Muncie, IN Area ARC, WB9HXG; Regular contributors Joseph Bartzi, Jr., KC8DKF of Columbus, OH William Walters, WA2IBM in San Jose ; Stephen Perluss and the South Orange Amateur Radio Association in Mission Viejo.

Via PayPal there was Jim Keller, Peter Grace and Oscar Alonso of Robert Holton- Holland, MI, Martek Mississippi amd Biloxi, MS.

Samuel Woodham- Gulfport; Mark Joseph- KC9DUU in Champaign, IL ; Jarno de Haan- PA3DMI in the Neatherlands.

In the month of July including our regular contributors, we heard from the Catalina Amateur Repeater Association, AA6DP.

Via PayPal there was Taylor Valuations- Desta, FL; Adalberto Castelo- Newark, DE; Jack Haas- KB6ZBS, right here in nearby Glendora.

Many of you have written us notes or emails saying how valuable you think our service is: bringing you amateur radio news as it happens, instead of several months later in print. Just DX-peditions alone are often last-minute. You get it here, and you get it weekly.

You need to help keep these broadcasts on the air. Please write to us at our Newsline Support Fund address in Arcadia, CA, given at the end of this broadcast, or use our easy and secure PayPal donation link on our website: arnewsline.org.

I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, and thank you.

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Thank you Andy. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1660 with a release date of Friday, June 5th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Brazil calls on its hams to help find a missing airliner, India sends hams to provide communications after a cyclone hits, an all clear on 40 meters following an Earthquake in Honduras and Ireland tells its hams that their licenses will last a lifetime. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1660 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESCUE RADIO: BRAZILLIAN HAMS HELP IN SEARCH FOR MISSNG ARLINER

Brazilian amateur radio operators were part of the search effort after Air France fight 447 disappeared enroute from Rio de Janeiro to Paris on June 1st. The Airbus A-330 passenger jet was over the Atlantic when automated systems radioed a series of technical difficulties with the aircraft before all contact with it was lost. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is on our Newsroom with the latest:

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Air France Flight 447 carried 216 passengers and a crew of 12. An airline spokesman said that shortly before the A-330 disappeared the plane sent several automatic messages reporting electrical and pressurization problems.

Andrew Sampaio, PY0FF, is one of the hams called to take part in the search. He says that shortly after contact with the plane was lost, messages were sent via amateur radio to vessels sailing the region of its last known position. These exchanges asked for any information on the disappearance of the aircraft. They also requested that ships be on the lookout for any sign of the plane.

On Tuesday, June 2nd Brazilian military reconnaissance aircraft found a 3 mile path of wreckage in the Atlantic Ocean some 400 miles from the Brazilian archipelago of Fernando de Noronha. This, the airline says confirms that Flight 447 had crashed in the sea. Ham Radio assistance in the search for Air France 447 has reportedly now been discontinued.

That's all we know right now. For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, following this story from Los Angeles.

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At airtime its not known how many Brazilian hams were mobilized to assist in the search for the ill-fated Air France flight. (PS8RF, Southgate, other news sources)

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RESCUE RADIO: INDIA'S NIAR SENDS RESCUE RADIO OPRATORS TO CYCLONE DEVISTATED REGION

A three-member team of communicators from India's National Institute of Amateur Radio has been dispatched to assist in disaster relief efforts in the city of Kolkata. This, following a government request for two way communications in the wake of Cyclone Aila..

The team of emergency trained hams arrived in the city with radio equipment on June 1st to help the state government in relief work. They were quickly requested to set up radio communications in the flood affected areas of the north and south Parganas area.

Ram Mohan, VU2MYH,is a National Institute of Amateur Radio director. He says that his organization had received a letter from the north Parganas district magistrate's office. It asked that hams and two-way radio equipment be sent to the flood-affected areas of the district to

help them in conducting relief and rescue work.

VU2MYH added thatalthough more than a week has passed since the storm Aila hit, there was still speculation as to the extent of the damage that the storm and flooding had caused. As such, damage assessment in the Parganas area is needed very quickly. How long the team from the National Institute of Amateur Radio will be on site is at this moment not known. (Times of India)

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RESCUE RADIO: AN ALL CLEAR ON 7.090

If you were staying away from 7 point 090 MHz to avoid interfering with Earthquake related emergency communications to Honduras, word that the frequency is now clear. Dr. Cesar Pio Santos, HR2P, is the IARU Region 2 Emergency Communications Coordinator. He says that 7 point 090 is no longer likely to be used for emergency communications in connection with the quakes aftermath. Dr. Santos also thanked all amateurs who refrained from using the frequency for their cooperation. (Southgate)

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RESTRUCTURING: 40 METER EXPANSION IN SOUTH AFRICA COMES CLOSER

Expansion of the 40 meter band in South Africa band has come another step closer. This, after the board of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa approves the revised radio regulations for publication in the Government Gazette.

A spokesperson for the telecommunications regulator says that he expects that the revised regulations will be published this week or next. According to the South Africa Radio League a special Boland Amateur Radio Club contest which will be held on the first Sunday after the new regulations have been published to celebrate. (SARL)

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RESTRUCTURING: IRELAND GOES LIFETIME LICENSING

Ireland is issuing its hams lifetime licenses. Most licensees in Ireland by now have received letters from the regulator ComReg informing them that the lifetime licenses which will begin to be issued this month with an effective date of June 1st.

These letters reportedly came as a surprise to all as the documentation published by ComReg about the lifetime license was in the context of Experimenter Licenses. There was no discussion between ComReg and the Irish Radio Transmitters Society on this matter nor was there any indication of an intention to change to Amateur Licenses despite a meeting between the two back on February 12th at which time the possibility of a future lifetime license was discussed.

According to the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, a meeting on May 16th showed that of the nations major ham radio clubs only two were totally opposed to the idea. The others agreed that on balance the

change was at worst neutral and at best beneficial.

At the conclusion of the discussion the consensus was that a letter should be sent to ComReg expressing disappointment at the lack of consultation or even notification of the change. It should also point out that all of the frequency bands in the European Common Allocations Table and ComReg's Radio Frequency Plan for Ireland which are allocated to the Amateur Service should be automatically made available under the new Amateur Radio lifetime licenses. This would result in considerable extra spectrum in the microwave region. The letter would also request ComReg to publish on its website the definition of Amateur Radio as contained in the ITU Radio Regulations. This is because that terminology highlights the self training and technical investigations aspects of amateur radio. (IRTS)

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BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the WO1E repeater serving Templeton Massachusetts.

(5 sec pause here)

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RESCUE RADIO: ALABAMA TO HOLD ARES FM SIMPLEX TEST

The Alabama Amateur Radio Emergency Service will once again conduct an FM Simplex Exercise. One designed to encourage members to forget repeaters for an afternoon and test their range on FM simplex.

This will be a two-hour exercise on Saturday, June 13th starting at 4:00 PM and running until 6:00 PM Central time and held during the ARRL June VHF QSO Contest. This to allow ARES volunteers the opportunity to contact more distant VHF contest stations, many of whom run high power and gain antennas.

During the event, stations will exchange call signs and grid squares. Last year's event, some ARES volunteers were able to make contacts over 200 miles away.

The frequencies that will be used are 52.525 MHz on 6 meters, 146.55, 146.58 and 147.555 MHz on 2. Also being used will be 223.5 MHz on 1 and 1/4 meters and 446.0 MHz on 70 Centimeters.

Other regions might want to consider such tests. This, so as to be prepared in case a disaster takes all the local repeaters QRT. (VHF Reflector)

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RADIO LAW: CANADIAN TOWN VOTES AGAINST HAM RADIO ANTENNA

Residents of the town of Gordon Head, Saanich, Canada have won round one in their fight to keep a local ham from re-installing a tower that his father had on the same property for many years. This, as the Saanich councilors voted to oppose the ham-radio installation even after Mayor Frank Leonard told them that radio communications is the responsibility of the Canadian federal government.

Ken Jones, VE7BLN, who wants to rebuild the tower is a volunteer with the Saanich Emergency Program. This is an organization dedicated to maintaining communications during a catastrophic event like an earthquake. Jones says that all he is trying to rebuild a tower used by his father until about 1984.

But his decision has lead to outrage among some of his neighbors who call the tower an ugly structure that they do not want next door or where they can see it from their own yards. They took their case before the council that voted to back them and deny the tower a permit.

But the battle is far from over. This is because that nations telecommunications agency Industry Canada has the final say on the 15-metre high antenna support structure. Jim Laursen, who is the Manager of Spectrum Operations for Industry Canada, told the city councilors that Jones's tower height falls within national standards. Laursen explained that this is a nationwide compromise reached after much consultation and study.

Laursen added this note that may be ringing in the ears of the Saanrich Councelors. He said -- and we quote: "It is something that people are going to have to put up with coast to coast."

Translated into simple English it means that Industry Canada really has the final word on whether or not Jones tower can go up. Depending on whether or not Industry Canada overrides the town council this hearing could be just the first step in what could turn out to be a long and drawn out legal battle in the Canadian courts. (ARNewsline(tm) adapted from Canada.com, Canada Times Colonist, eHam.net)

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ENFORCEMENT: YOU CAN'T OPERATE THERE

The FCC has sent a Warning Notice to . George Fuhrer, Jr., KC6JXM, of Torrance, California telling him that he cannot operate on 3 point 875 MHz with a Technician class license.

According to an April 29th letter from FCC rules enforcer Laura Smith, Fuhrer was allegedly heard on that frequency back on March 29th. Smith's letter to KC6JXM notes that under the terms of his Technician Class license, that he is not authorized to use that frequency.

Smith then warns Fuhrer that that this unauthorized operation of his station must cease immediately. She tells him that continued operation could lead to enforcement action hat could include a fine, suspension of his operator privileges, or his license being revoked. Smith also notes that it could jeopardize any attempts for him to obtain an upgraded amateur radio license. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMMENT: YOU NEED A HAM LICENSE TO OPERATE 2 METERS

Also receiving a Warning Letter from Smith is Andrew Macrae of Bozeman, Montana. In it, Smith notes that at multiple times in the last several months he has made radio transmissions in the 2 meter amateur band, even though he does not hold an Amateur service license.

Smith tells Macrae that operation of radio transmitting equipment without a valid FCC authorization is a violation of the Communications Act As such that it could bring with it some severe penalties. These include a substantial fine of up to $10,000 and seizure of the radio equipment being used. It could also lead to criminal sanctions including imprisonment.

Smith gave Macrae 10 days from the April 30th date of her letter to him to respond to her office. That date is now past. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: PROPOSED $7000 FINE FOR SELLING NON CERTIFIED 24 GHZ GEER

The FCC has issued a Issued a $7000 monetary forfeiture to Orvac Electronics, Inc., Fullerton, California. This, for marketing non-certified 2.4 GHz wireless video transmitters and wireless cameras that the agency considers to be intentional radiators.

The proposed fine is the result of a November 22, 2006, inspection of Orvac's retail store. That's where an FCC agent claims to have observed several models of uncertified wireless cameras and stand alone video transmitters on display and for sale.

Wireless video cameras and other short range 2.4 GHz video transmitters are classified as intentional radiators under the Commission's rules. As such they must be certified and labeled with an FCC I.D. number pursuant to the Commission's Rules before being offered for sale within the United States and its possessions. (CGC, FCC)

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RADIO RECORDS: SA HAMS CLAIM 4 METER SSB METEOR SCATTER RECORD

A pair of South African hams are claiming the first ever SSB phone meteor scatter record for the 4 meter band. Andre Botes, ZS2ACP, of Port Elizabeth and Paul Smit, ZS6NK, in Polokwane say that they made the contact on May 6th at about 06:00 local lime on 70.200 MHz.

According to Smit, it took about 25 minutes to complete the phone contact with 5 by 5 signal reports both ways. He says that they were first listening on F-S-K 441 when they noticed some massive bursts of up to 8 seconds. This says Smit prompted them to try a contact on phone which occurred during the radio peak of the Eta-Aquarids meteor shower.

The 4 meter band which used to be exclusive to the United Kingdom is fast gaining favor across Europe and in some nations in the Southern hemisphere. Unfortunately for hams in most of I-T-U Region 2, those frequencies at 70 MHz are assigned to other services and will not likely be available to amateur radio anytime in the foreseeable future. Hams in the United States and Canada have long attempted crossband contacts with Europe by transmitting in the 6 meter band and listening on 4 meters and have met with some success. (SARL, ARNewsline(tm))

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: ALGERIA TO HOST HAM SAHARA INTERNATIONAL MEETING

The Algerian Association of Amateur Radio and the Radio Club of Djelfa will be sponsoring the second International Ham Sahara International Meeting throughout the month of June. The venue is the city of Djelfa. According to organizers, every aspect of the event has been planned to make their guests from around the world welcome. More information is available from the Secretary General of the Algerian Association of Amateur Radio by e-mail to benlagha72 (at) hotmail (dot) com or to the Sahara International Ham Meeting at bodil17000 (at) yahoo (dot) fr (Via E-Mail)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: DENVER HAMFEST IN AUGUST IN COLORADO

The Denver Radio Club in Colorado will hold its annual hamfest on August 16th at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in the mile high city. This popular event attracts over 600 hams from across Colorado and Southern Wyoming. Planners say that technical Seminars and VE testing will be featured at the event. For more information take your web browser to www.w0tx.org or email to drcfest (at) comcast (dot) net. (KB0A)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: AMSAT AND ARISS IN BALTIMORE IN OCTOBER

The 2009 AMSAT Space Symposium and ARISS Operations Team Meeting will be held on Friday, October 9th through Sunday, October 11th. The venue is the Four Points Sheraton hotel that is on the Baltimore-Washington Airport property. More information on these twin events will be posted on the AMSAT North America and ARISS International websites as it becomes available. (ANS)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: MOHAMMED BALBISI JY4MB - SK

If you visited the Dayton Hamvention during the 1980's and early 1990's you might remember a rather friendly ham from Jordan with the callsign JY4MB. His name was Mohammed Balbisi and he came to Dayton fairly regularly to represent the Royal Jordanian Amateur Radio Society and His Majesty, the late King Hussein, JY1.

Now, we are saddened to report that JY4MB, became a Silent Key late last year. His passing was first mentioned in an article in the June issue of CQ Magazine by Stewart Gillmor, W1FK. We contacted Stew and he told us that he learned of the death of JY4MB in late 2008 on a trip to Jordan. He pegs the date as early December as he was there from the 20th to the 25th and had been told that Mohammed had become a Silent Key about three weeks earlier.

JY4MB was one of the true unsung heroes of amateur radio and the hobby never had a greater champion. As those who knew him will tell you, he lived the ham radio and shared his love of it with everyone he met. His broad smile and gentle demeanor made him a favorite among DX'ers and non-DX'ers alike. Because of this he will be missed by his many friends worldwide. (Info from W1FK)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AO-7 EXPERIENCING ECLIPSES

Turning to ham radio news from space, word that the AO-7 ham radio bird is once again experiencing short eclipses each orbit. This is preventing the 24 hour timer from switching modes. AO-7 has seems to favor Mode U/V almost exclusively during these periods. (AMSAT)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AO-51 TO BE DUAL FIELD DAY REPEATER

AMSAT says that the Oscar 51 ham radio satellite will be configured for Field Day. The bird will have dual FM repeaters with one operating on 1268.700 and 435.150 with the other on 145.920 and 435.300 MHz. No PL tone is required.

Please note that the 435.150 downlink is left hand circular polarized, and the 435.300 transmitter is right hand circular polarized. This configuration will be available for the week preceding Field Day, through the Field Day weekend. That's June 22nd to the 28th. (ANS)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: BEER WASTEWATER CONVERTED TO ELECTRICITY

>From the Newsline science page word than an innovative joint project between Australia's University of Queensland and Foster's Brewing to turn beer wastewater into electricity has won a $140,000 grant. This,

from the Queensland Government's Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund.

A research fellow explained that the new technology worked by creating a microbial fuel cell, which feeds continuously on the organic materials found in the brewery wastewater, turning it into electrical power. The process also produces clean water and renewable non-polluting carbon dioxide.

The team from the University of Queensland Advanced Wastewater Management Center was one of six presented with the funding by Lindy Nelson-Carr who is the Minister for Environment. The presentation took place at Foster's Yatala brewery.

One last thought. If successful. this project may eventually bring new meaning to the words going out for an 807. (Science Daily)

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WORLDBEAT: RADIO AND TV MARTI SEE SHARP CUTS

Since its inception many years ago, we have reported on the ups and downs of broadcast services Radio and TV Martï¿½. That's the U-S based propaganda sstations that beam broadcasts to Cuba which are routinely jammed by the Cuban government.

Now, according to news reports, Radio and Television Marti will lay off 20 percent of their workforce in a shake-up aimed at retooling the struggling stations. Thjis, in the face of a steep federal budget cuts that provide $2 point 4 million dollars less than last year..

The U.S.-funded broadcasts, aimed at breaking the information blockade on the island, will change formats in response to the proposed budget cut. Radio Martï¿½ will go to an all news format, and TV Martï¿½ will have a five-minute news update every half hour, with other programming filling the time between them.

The final goal is to eliminate 35 jobs at the combined Marti broadcasting facility while at the same time producing a faster and more pointed newscast. (RW)

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ON THE AIR: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF TV IN BULGARIA

On the bands, listen out for special event station LZ50BNT to be active through December 31st. This in celebration of 50th anniversary of Bulgarian National Television. Operations will be on all bands and modes. A special QSL card will be sent to all stations who send their QSL via LZ1HA, either direct or by the Bureau. (OPDX)

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ON THE AIR: SPECIAL EGYPTIAN LIGHTHOUSE OPERATION

SU1SK, and several other Egyptian operators will be active as SU8LH. This as the first Egyptian Lighthouse DXpedition on Ras El-Bar Island

from August 1st to the 9th. Look for SU8LH to participate in the special International Lighthouse-Lightship Week event during this operation with activity on the High Frequency bands, as well as 6 meters using SSB and CW. QSL via SU1SK. (Southgate)

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DX

In D-X, word that 9M6DXX and 9M6EVA, are celebrating their 25th Silver Wedding anniversary with a trip to the South Pacific. 9M6DXX will be active in SSB on 40, 20 and 17 meters with some operation possible on 15 as well. QSLs via M0URX, direct, via bureau or Logbook to the World.

KP2YL and KP2HC will be back on St. Croix through June 30th. Listen for them using CW and SSB on 160 through 6 meters. June is 6 meter DX season in the Caribbean, and Brian will be monitoring that band. QSL direct only via the addressees on QRZ.com.

And don't send QSL's for OD5GR to K5FI for two reasons. First, K5FI says hes not a QSL manager for any station, anywhere. More important, its looks as if OD5GR is actually an unlicensed station, so don't hold your breath waiting to get a confirmation from him.

Keep watch for HB9OAB satellite DXpedition to Morocco as CN2AB between June 27 and July 20. Franco says he favors operation via VO-52. QSL using e-QSL or via the bureau to HB9OAB.

Lastly, F5MCC ,and possibly TK5XN have been reported as active from Corsica. QSL's for F5MCC portable TK go via his home call and TK5XN via F2YT either direct or through the bureau.

(From various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: DIGITAL DELIVERY TO REPLACE FILM

And finally this week, get ready for a new communications experience. That of three dimensional digital movies coming to a big screen near you. Amateur Radio Newsline's Fred Vobbe, W8HDU, has the details:

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Five Hollywood studios have agreed to help pay for a part of the estimated $1 billion cost to introduce digital theater projection technology on about 20,000 movie screens in North America. The rollout across the United States and Canada, covering about half of all screens in the two nations will cost of about $70,0000 per theater screen.

Adding digital equipment is the critical first step in the technological upgrade to being able to show 3-D movies. According to The Walt Disney Company, more than twenty 3-D films are set to hit theaters through 2010, but only 873 locations in the U.S. and Canada, with a total 1,264 3three dimensional projection systems, are currently

available to show them.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Fred Vobbe, W8HDU.

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Movies in 3-D were a novelty in the 1950's when audiences had to endure poor quality red and blue lens glasses to see them. Now with modern digital technology they may become commonplace and expected when you venture out to see something on the silver screen. (FutureTech)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go this quick note. As a result of numerous listener requests, we have posted the complete 71 minute recording of this years Dayton FCC Forum on our website. To find it just visit www dot arnewsline dot org and look for the words "Special Report" in red then right click on the word "here" and save the way your web browser normally does for our weekly MP3 audio newscast. The recording was made using a Senheisser microphone at the speakers podium connected to an M-Audio Micriotrack II professional flash audio recorder and is about as good as it gets. We hope you will find thins audio file of value.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW and I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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